

REMARKS

Claims 1-6, 8-16, 18-23, 25-28 are pending in the application. Claims 29 and 30 are withdrawn from consideration. By this paper Claims 7, 17, and 24 are hereby canceled. Claims 4 and 14 have been amended to more particularly point out and distinctly claim the present invention.

Election Requirement

Applicants hereby affirm the election of Species 1 comprising claims 1-28.

Drawing Objection

The drawings stand objected to under 37 CFR 1.83(a) as failing to disclose a system in which the manipulation of a locking mechanism results in the securing/releasing of a latch. Applicant traverses. By this paper, FIG. 1 has been amended to include an arrow indicating sliding movement of the locking mechanism 114. Instant Specification, paragraph [0022]. Applicants respectfully note that FIGS. 2 and 3 (including the figures brief description) indicate latch devices disposed in secured/released positions and thus the manipulation of the locking mechanism extending away from the second side 112 such that the latch is released as observed in FIG. 2. Additionally reference numbers 124, 200, and 204 were added, reference number 116 was deleted, reference number 116 in the specification was corrected to 222.

With respect to the drawing objection to Claims 3, 13, 21, and 27, Applicants respectfully note that a biasing device (e.g., a spring 230) is illustrated in FIG. 2 and described in paragraph [0024]. Further, Applicants note that the referenced elements invoke means plus function statutory construction 35 U.S.C. §112, paragraph six, and thus not only encompass the structures recited in the written description and drawings but also includes the equivalents thereof.

Claim Objections

By this paper, Claims 4 and 14 have been amended it is believed that the pending objection to Claims 4 and 14 is therefore obviated. With regard to Claim 1, Applicants traverse the objection. In the instant case, the preamble is not necessary to give life to the claim as the body fully recites the claimed invention and the preamble is not utilized for providing

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antecedent basis for the recitation of “a chassis”. See generally, M.P.E.P §2111.02. Reversal of the pending objection of Claim 1 is respectfully requested.

Claim Rejection 35 U.S.C. § 112, paragraph 1

Claims 1-6, 8-16, 18-23, 25-28 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, paragraph 1. Applicants traverse the rejection. Applicants generally concur with the Office’s understanding of the invention. Except, Applicants note the claimed locking mechanism extends from generally the first to the second side rather than from “first and second panels” as referenced in the pending rejection. While Applicants believe no amendment to the written description is necessary, the discussion below is included for clarification of issues.

The written description generally discloses a panel system including a panel 104 adjustably connected along a first side to a chassis 100 such as via a pseudo hinge. Instant Application, paragraph [0019]. A latch, e.g., a pivotally coupled latch 110, is mounted to a second side of the chassis 112 such that the latch may restrain the panel/a component (a floppy drive 220 is disclosed). Instant Application, paragraphs [0020] and [0021].

The Instant Application teaches, “[a] locking mechanism 114 is slidably mounted to the panel 104. As may be best seen in FIG. 4, the locking mechanism may be disposed in a sleeve or recessed portion of the panel such as between an inner and outer portion of the panel or aligned by tabs folded-over the recessed channel. Additionally, the locking mechanism may be mounted to the chassis.” Instant Application, paragraph [0022]. Emphasis added.

Further the Instant Application teaches “[a] spring may be further included. The spring is connected to the latch, additionally the spring may be attached to the lock mechanism. Including a spring such as an extension spring 230 biases the mechanism in either a secured or released orientation, when a securing device is removed. (e.g., a screw, a lock or the like) For instance, the extension spring 230 biases the latch and locking mechanism when in a released position. Utilizing a spring to bias the mechanism in a secured position requires the user to positively operate the mechanism, thus minimizing accidental opening

of the chassis and/or release of a component.” Instant Application, paragraph [0022]. Emphasis added. The instant specification discloses a spring or other biasing device may be connected to the latch and/or the securing mechanism so as to bias the latch/securing mechanism into a desired position such as a release position (FIG. 2) or a securing position (FIG. 3). In the above example, where an extension spring biases the locking mechanism into a securing position, a user is forced to operate or slide the locking mechanism such that the latch obtains a released position and the component and/or panel may be removed. Conversely, if the latch/lock mechanism is biased in a releasing direction, manipulation of the locking mechanism (from the first side) may merely require removal of a screw retaining the locking mechanism to the chassis for panel removal/minimal manipulation of the locking mechanism along the first side.

In-light of the foregoing, it is believed that the pending rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112, paragraph 1 is obviated. Removal of the pending rejection is respectfully requested.

Claim Rejection 35 U.S.C. § 102

35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

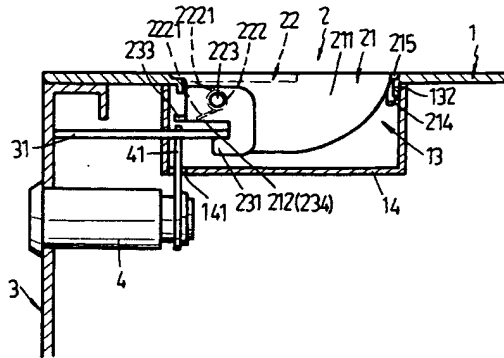
Claims 1-6, 8-16, 18-23, 25-28 stand rejected as anticipated under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) by Cheng (United States Patent Number 6,373,692), hereinafter Cheng. The rejection is respectfully traversed.

As the Office is aware, [a]nticipation requires the disclosure in a single prior art reference of each element of the claim under consideration. *W.L. Gore & Assocs. v. Garlock*, 721 F.2d 1540, 220 USPQ 303 (Fed. Cir. 1983), *cert. denied*, 469 U.S. 851 (1984). Emphasis added. In the instant case, the Cheng reference has fails to teach the claimed combination as Cheng fails to teach a locking member extending substantially from a first side to a second side substantially opposing the first side. Rather, in Cheng, the asserted locking member 4 is simply a lock that is located by the handle 22. See below. The lock (Cheng item 4) does not extend from the first side, along which a panel is configured to be connected to the chassis, to the second side. Additionally the Cheng system fails to be constructed to allow manipulation from a first side to at least one of release or secure the

latch along the second side (Claim 1). Regarding Claim 9, Cheng additionally fails to teach a panel hingedly connected along a first side, a locking mechanism extending substantially from the first side to a second side opposite the first, wherein manipulation of the locking mechanism at the first side release/secures of the latch. Additionally with respect to Claim 25, Cheng fails to teach a sliding locking mechanism, as Cheng merely is a lock. As the Office is aware, the examiner "ordinarily should reject each claim on all valid grounds available." *M.P.E.P.* §707.07(g) Further, "[w]here a major technical rejection is proper, it should be stated with a full development of reasons rather than by a mere conclusion coupled with some stereotyped expression." *Id.* Additionally,

We think the precise language of 35 U.S.C. 102 that "a person shall be entitled to a patent unless," concerning novelty and unobviousness, clearly places a burden on the Patent Office which requires it to produce the factual basis for its rejection of an application under sections 102 and 103. . . In re Warner, 379 F.2d 1011, 154 U.S.P.Q. 173, 178 (C.C.P.A. 1967), cert denied, 389 U.S. 1057 (1968).

Removal of the pending rejection is respectfully requested as a prima facie case of anticipation has not been proven. Applicants will not burden the record further.



Removal of the pending rejection is requested and allowance solicited.

35 U.S.C. § 102(e)

Claims 1-6, 8-16, 18-23, 25-28 stand rejected as anticipated under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) by Webb (United States Patent Number 6,772,613), hereinafter Webb. The rejection is respectfully traversed.

With specific regard to Claims 9-28, Webb fails to teach a chassis for containing an electronic device (e.g., a computer Claim 18) or means for housing a computer (Claim 25). In-light of the foregoing removal of the pending rejection to Claims 9-28 is specifically requested.

With regard to Claim 1, Webb fails to disclose a locking mechanism, extending from a first side to a substantially opposing second side, mounted to at least one of the chassis or the panel. Rather, Webb repeatedly teaches item 50 (asserted to be the locking mechanism) is a conventional padlock (Webb, Col. 5, line 46). Additionally, Webb fails to teach how the asserted latch 80 may be manipulated from the first side (i.e., the side on which the asserted panel 40 is connected to the main body of the box). Thus, the Webb system fails to include a locking mechanism extending from a first side (where the panel is configured to be connected to a chassis) to a second substantially opposite side. Applicants will not burden the record further. Removal of the pending rejection is respectfully requested and allowance earnestly solicited.

CONCLUSIONS

In-light of the forgoing, reconsideration and allowance of the claims is earnestly solicited.

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Respectfully submitted,
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Amendment to the Drawings:

The attached sheet of drawings includes changes to FIGS. 1 and 2. The sheets encompassing FIGS. 1 and 2, respectively, replaces the original sheets. FIG. 1 has been amended in the following respects: an arrow has been added to indicate the releasing/securing of the latch, reference number 124 has been added to indicate the tab portion of a locking mechanism as best observed in its entirety in FIG. 1, reference number 116 has been canceled. FIG. 2 has been amended in the following respects: reference number 200 indicating a chassis has been added, and reference number 204 indicating a panel has been added. Additionally, the reference to item 216 within the text has been corrected to refer to item 222.

Attachment: Replacement Sheets